

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 EB-11 AID-20 SCA-01 SY-10 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00

A-01 DRC-01 /195 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0119

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8118

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT

1. FUELED BY LATEST RADIO NEWS REPORTS OUT OF WASHINGTON AND BY ROARS OF CONSTANT STREAM OF LARGE AIRCRAFT PASSING OVER-HEAD, SPECULATION RE US MILITARY RESUPPLY WILL QUICKLY BECOME NUMBER ONE TOPIC TODAY IN TEL AVIV. ONLY LOCAL MEDIA REFERENCES TO SUBJECT:, HOWEVER, ARE BASED ON ISRAELI PRESS SOURCES IN US.

2. ALTHOUGH ISRAELI MEDIA ARE REPORTING CONTINUED ADVANCES

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OF ISRAELI FORCES IN SYRIA AND SUCCESSFUL STEMMING OF EGYPTIAN

OFFENSIVE IN SINAI, ISRAELI MOOD SOMBERED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT
LAST NIGHT OF 656 ISRAELIS KILLED IN ACTION AND SOME 2,000
WOUNDED. IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW DEFMIN DAYAN, ALTHOUGH CONFIDENT
IN MOOD, STRESSED TO ISRAELIS THAT NO QUICK VICTORY OVER
ARABS IS IN SIGHT. DAYAN ALSO SOUGHT TO DISPEL
UNDERCURRENT OF ISRAELI PUBLIC CONCERN THAT ISRAEL COULD
HAVE DONE MORE TO HAVE AVOIDED HEAVY CASUALTIES IN FIRST
PHASE OF WAR (EARLIER MOBILIZATION AND/OR IDF PREEMPTIVE
ACTION). EFFORT OF GOI TO IMPROVE CREDIBILITY WITH PUBLIC
IS REFLECTED IN REPORTED QUICK POLL COMMISSIONED BY PRIMIN'S
OFFICE ON HOW GOVT CAN IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH PUBLIC IN WAR
TIME.

3. CABINET MEETING OCT 14 HEARD REPORTS ON PROBLEMS
CONCERNING NATIONAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULE
FOR OCTOBER 30. REPORTEDLY ALL FACTIONS ARE AGREED THAT
ELECTIONS SHOULD BE POSTPONED. ISSUE WILL BE DISCUSSED
SHORTLY AMONG PARTIES, WITH MAJOR QUESTION PERHAPS ARISING
OVER GETTING NEW DATE OR DECIDING TO AWAIT TERMINATION OF
HOSTILITIES BEFORE DOING SO. KNESSET TO MEET OCTOBER 16 IN
SPECIAL SESSION TO HEAR PRIMIN DELIVER GOVERNMENT
STATEMENT AND PASS WAR LOAN LAW.

4. LARGE NUMBER VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE TO REGISTER FOR CIVILIAN
AND DEFENSE WORK (5,000 REGISTERED YESTERDAY). ACCORDING TO
REMARKS BY LABOR MINISTRY REPORTED TO EMBOFF, CONTINUED
SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS AND MANAGERIAL PERSONNEL PRODUCING
STRAINS IN INDUSTRY AND CERTAIN SERVICES WITHIN ECONOMY
(PUBLIC SERVICES, HOWEVER, ARE STILL DOING WELL, LABOR
MINISTRY AND EMPLOYERS REPORTEDLY SEEKING TO ESTABLISH ORDER
OF PRIORITIES TO MINIMIZE IMPACT ON ECONOMY OF SUSTAINED
MOBILIZATION. SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND OTHER CONSUMER ARTICLES
APPEAR TO CONTINUE IN ADEQUATE SUPPLY, ALTHOUGH SOME ITEMS NOT
AVAILABLE AFTER MID-DAY AND SMALL SHOPS CLOSING EARLY. DESPITE
SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT SINCE FIRST PHASE OF WAR, MAIN PROBLEM
IS STILL DISTRIBUTION, WITH GOI SETTING UP SPECIAL UNITS TO
IMPROVE DISTRIBUTION OF BOTH CONSUMER AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.
FOOD PROCESSORS HAVE APPEALED TO PUBLIC NOT TO PANIC AND HAVE
ASSURED THERE WILL BE AMPLE SUPPLIES OF BASIC COMMODITIES.

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5. EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE VOLUNTARY PURCHASE OF WAR BONDS IN
FULL SWING, WITH INCREASING NUMBERS OF ORGANIZATIONS PLEADING
PURCHASES TO HELP MEET GOAL OF IL 1,000 MILLION.

6. EL AL REPORTS THAT FOR WEEK ENDING MIDNIGHT OCT 14
IT FLEW 79 FLIGHTS COMPARED TO NORMAL SCHEDULE OF 39 FLIGHTS.
DID NOT PROVIDE DATA ON EXTENT OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC VISA-A-VIS
CARGO. PRIORITIES FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC TO ISRAEL ARE

BEING ASSIGNED BY ISRAELI EMBASSIES. PLANES FLYING 16 HOUR PER DAY INSTEAD OF NORMAL 8 TO 10 HOURS, WITH CONSEQUENT TOLL ON EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL.

7. FOREIGN PRESS CORPS IN ISRAEL NOW NUMBERS UPWARDS OF 1000, WITH ONE-FIFTH ESTIMATED AS AMERICANS. PRESS IS SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP (EXCEPT PRESUMABLY ON INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE) AND IN GENERAL SEEMS TO BE ACCEPTING RESTRAINTS WITH UNDERSTANDING AND, IN GOOD HUMOR. DESPITE GOI'S EFFORTS TO RETAIN SEMBLANCE OF DISCIPLINE, MANY NEWSMEN SHOWING REMARKABLE ENTERPRISE IN REACHING DANGER ZONES. ONE ISRAELI CAMERAMAN FOR NBC HAS BEEN WOUNDED IN GOLAN AND RADIO ISRAEL NEWSMAN KILLED IN SINAI. WITH WAR PROVIDING AMPLE PRESS COPY, PRESS HAS NOT YET INFLICTED ITSELF ON EMBASSY IN MASSIVE NUMBERS, BUT TEMPO PICKING UP STEADILY. WE FOLLOWING CLOSELY AND CAREFULLY WASHINGTON'S GUIDANCE.

8. CONSULAR ACTIVITY RELATING TO WARTIME CONDITIONS UP SLIGHTLY FROM YESTERDAY (SUNDAY), MOST LIKELY BECAUSE MANY AMERICANS ASSUMED WE WERE CLOSED OVER WEEKEND. KEATING

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